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LETTER DATED 22 MAY 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ITALY TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On behalf of the European Union I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a declaration of the Presidency of the European Union on Ukraine, issued on Tuesday, 21 May 1996.

I would be grateful if you could have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) F. Paolo FULCI
Ambassador

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Annex

[Original: English and French]

Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on Ukraine

As the fifth anniversary of the declaration of independence draws near and in the spirit of the common position of 27 November 1994, the European Union reaffirms the fundamental importance of Ukraine's independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty as key elements of security in Europe in the wake of Ukraine's accession to the Council of Europe, testifying to the meaningful progress Ukraine has made in consolidating its democracy. The EU further expresses its appreciation for the active and constructive role played by Ukraine in favour of regional and European stability, and is confident of early approval of the new Constitution, whose entry into force will further legitimize Ukraine's aspiration to integrate fully into the family of European nations.

The European Union supports equally the efforts of the Ukrainian people and its leadership aimed at establishing a market economy, as a prerequisite for economic and social development corresponding to Ukraine's huge human and natural potential. The European Union will continue to use the available instruments to encourage and assist further consolidation of the achievements in the field of economic stabilization and of liberalization. The European Union will also assist the process of integration of Ukraine into the world economic order, through support for its efforts to meet the requirements for membership in the World Trade Organization, and will further examine the possibility of recognizing Ukraine's status as an economy in transition.

More particularly, the European Union considers that implementation of the Interim Agreement and subsequently the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement will be a priority for its relations with Ukraine in the coming years. This requires from Ukraine a far-reaching effort to adapt its legislative framework in various domains, economic as well as administrative, an effort which the EU is prepared fully to support. Clear measures of liberalization and privatization as well as stable, non-discriminatory legislation will represent the requisites for a satisfactory level of foreign investment.

The European Union expresses its utmost satisfaction and appreciation at the great progress made by Ukraine in the field of arms control and non-proliferation. We are particularly satisfied with the positive implementation by Kiev of the Lisbon Protocol and associated documents, which has allowed the START I Treaty to enter into force. The Union also welcomes the process of deactivation of strategic forces, the removal and transfer of warheads and destruction of carriers. The Union welcomes Ukraine's accession to the Non-Proliferation Treaty as a non-nuclear-weapon member State, which strengthened the Treaty on the eve of its Review and Extension Conference. We appreciate as well the positive attitude of Ukraine vis-à-vis the indefinite extension of the Treaty, which will enhance the non-proliferation regime.

As far as nuclear safety is concerned, the Union attaches the greatest importance, as was also stated in the declaration by the Group of Seven Industrialized Countries and the Russian Federation at the Nuclear Safety Summit in Moscow, to the implementation of President Kuchma's decision to close down the Chernobyl nuclear power station definitively by the year 2000. For its part, the EU is, with the Group of Seven, committed to assisting with the implementation of this decision in accordance with the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding signed at Ottawa last December.

The Union regards with deep interest the ongoing intensification of Ukraine's dialogue with the Western European Union, as a significant step in the process of bringing Ukraine closer to European security structures.

In the interests of European stability, the European Union will encourage and facilitate the establishment of good relations between Ukraine and its neighbours. In the same perspective, it is in favour of the renewal of the mandate of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) mission in Ukraine.

The meeting of Foreign Minister Udovenko with the Ministerial Troika of the European Union, held on 21 May in Rome, confirmed the excellent state of their relations and endorsed their further evolution in all fields, in parallel with future processes of European Union enlargement, and in full compliance with the terms of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement.